

NOTES



PRAYER

Dear God, forgive me for all that I've spent on things that aren't going to last. I want to start investing in heaven. I want to invest in these godly funds. I want to use my money the way you want me to use it. Today I commit to using my money to grow my character and grow in spiritual strength, wisdom, and knowledge and become all that you want me to be. Help me to see ways that I can use what you have given to me to strengthen relationships and show love to my brothers and sisters in Christ. I want to invest in eternity by using my money to serve others. I want to learn to be generous. I want to be a blessing to others. And I want to use my money to bring people to you. I want people to be in heaven because I gave. I want to spread the Gospel through my acts of service. And Father, I want to show where my treasure is by investing in eternity through my gifts and offerings to you. I want to honor you by giving you the first part of all my income. I want to give up any lust for money so that you, God Almighty, will become my treasure. Help me to remember that I'm not a fool to give up what I cannot keep to gain what I cannot lose. I pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Rick Warren - How Can I Store Up Treasures in Heaven

OPENING QUESTION (OPTIONAL)

Your house is on fire and everyone manages to get out safely but you're only able to retrieve one thing from the fire. What would that thing be?



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WORD

16 And behold, a man came up to him, saying, "Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?" 17 And he said to him, "Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments." 18 He said to him, "Which ones?" And Jesus said, "You shall not murder, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, 19 Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself." 20 The young man said to him, "All these I have kept. What do I still lack?" 21 Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." 22 When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. 23 And Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly, I say to you, only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven. 24 Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." 25 When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" 26 But Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

[Matthew 16](#)

When the young rich man asks Jesus what he can do to earn eternal life, Jesus responds that only one is good (Matthew 19:17). Or Jesus could have said, "Only I am good." Only Jesus could do every good thing required to earn salvation. Human effort cannot accomplish it. As Jesus said, "With man, this is impossible." The good news is that Jesus adds, "But with God, all things are possible."

Salvation is possible because Jesus humbled himself on the cross. He said he would give his life as a ransom for many (Matthew 20:28). A ransom is the price of freedom for an enslaved individual. By giving his one life on the cross, Jesus has won freedom for the many.

[SPOKEN GOSPEL - Matthew 19-20: The Rich Young Ruler](#)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

((NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE))

1. On a scale from 1 to 10 (1 being never and 10 being always), how would you rate your capacity to give things away to help others? Why would you rate yourself this way?
2. Read the Matthew 16 passage. Why do you think it is hard for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven?
3. If Jesus was to ask you to give everything away to the poor, like he did with this Rich Young Ruler, would you do it?
4. In the above passage from Matthew 16, why do you think Jesus answered the Rich Young Ruler the way he did when he asked: "Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments."? What does this say about who Jesus is?
5. Would you choose today to trust Jesus as the LORD of your life - ruling in all things, including and especially in our finances? Will you enable him to have all authority as the one who calls the shots in your life? Would you like to enter into a saving relationship with God through Jesus? Ask your lifegroup leader to lead you in prayer to receive Christ. You can pray this prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite You to be the master of my life. I want to trust and follow You as my Lord and Saviour. I declare that I am Yours, and You are mine, In Jesus name, AMEN.